

BEST AVAILABLE COPY*In the Claims*

The status of claims in the case is as follows:

1-11 [Canceled]

1 12. [Previously presented] Method for operating an account
2 payable computing system, comprising:

3 preprocessing before introduction into an accounts payable
4 data base original electronic invoices received from a
5 vendor to identify duplicate invoices, including:

6 identifying invoices having a same vendor invoice
7 designation, same purchase order number, and same item
8 number;

9 calculating a net sum amount of items on invoices
10 identified as having said same vendor invoice
11 designation, said same purchase order number, and said
12 same item number;

13 identifying as a duplicate invoice an original
14 electronic invoice for which said net sum amount is
15 greater than zero;

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16 automatically communicating a duplicate invoice rejection
17 transaction back to said vendor for said original electronic
18 invoice identified as a duplicate invoice without posting
19 said original electronic invoice to said accounts payable
20 data base; and

21 introducing said original electronic invoices not identified
22 as duplicate invoices into said accounts payable data base.

1 13. [Previously presented] The method of claim 12, said
2 preprocessing including

3 first sorting said original electronic invoice against
4 an accounts payable production table for same vendor
5 and same vendor invoice number;

6 second sorting hits from said first sorting for same
7 purchase order billed;

8 third sorting hits from said second sorting for same
9 items billed on purchase order;

10 calculating a net sum amount of said same items; and

11 rejecting back to said customer as a duplicate invoice

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12 said original electronic invoice if it contains said
13 item with a net sum amount greater than zero.

1 14. [Currently amended] A computing system, comprising:

2

3 an accounts payable data base;

4

5 a preprocessor for identifying duplicate invoices from among

6 electronic invoices received from a vendor before

7 introducing said electronic invoices into said accounts

8 payable data base by:

9 identifying electronic invoices having a same vendor

10 invoice designation, same purchase order number, and

11 same item number;

12 calculating a net sum amount of items on invoices

13 identified as having said same vendor invoice

14 designation, said same purchase order number, and said

15 same item number;

16 identifying as a duplicate invoice an original

17 electronic invoice for which said net sum amount is

18 greater than zero;

19 an invoice processor for selectively automatically

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20 communicating a duplicate invoice rejection transaction back
21 to said vendor for said original electronic invoice
22 identified as a duplicate invoice without posting said
23 original electronic invoice to said accounts payable data
24 base; or introducing said original electronic invoice not
25 identified as said duplicate invoice into said accounts
26 payable data base.

1 15. [Currently amended] A program storage device tangibly
2 embodying a program of instructions for controlling the operation
3 of a computing system responsive to receipt of an electronic
4 input invoice from a vendor according to a method comprising:

5 preprocessing before introduction into an accounts payable
6 data base original electronic invoices received from a
7 vendor to identify duplicate invoices, including:

8 identifying invoices having a same vendor invoice
9 designation, same purchase order number, and same item
10 number;

11 calculating a net sum amount of items on invoices
12 identified as having said same vendor invoice
13 designation, said same purchase order number, and said
14 same item number;

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15 identifying as a duplicate invoice an original
16 electronic invoice for which said net sum amount is
17 greater than zero;

18 automatically communicating a duplicate invoice rejection
19 transaction back to said vendor for said original electronic
20 invoice identified as a duplicate invoice without posting
21 said original electronic invoice to said accounts payable
22 data base; and

23 storing said original electronic invoices not identified as
24 duplicate invoices into said accounts payable data base.

1 16. [Currently amended] Method for operating an accounts
2 payable computing system, comprising:

3 receiving an original electronic invoice from a vendor;

4 rejecting original electronic invoices received from vendors
5 not initialized as trading partners, and translating
6 original electronic invoices received from vendors
7 initialized as trading partners;

8 assuring that during said translating the count of
9 translated invoices rejected and accepted equals the number
10 of original electronic invoices translated, and feeding

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11 accepted invoices for preprocessing;
12
13 preprocessing invoices accepted for preprocessing as
14 received from a trading partner vendor, said preprocessing
15 selectively validating a transaction, calculating line item
16 accounts, deducting sales tax, and identifying original
17 electronic invoices which are duplicate invoices before
18 introduction into an accounts payable data base, said
19 identifying duplicate invoices including:

20 sorting all inbound invoices in credit/debit sequence;

21 auditing only debit invoices one at a time for
22 duplicate invoices and committing to said accounts
23 payable data base only those debit invoices which are
24 not duplicate invoices;

25 identifying invoices having a same vendor invoice
26 designation, same purchase order number, and same item
27 number;

28 calculating a net sum amount of items on invoices
29 identified as having said same vendor invoice
30 designation, said same purchase order number, and said
31 same item number;

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32 identifying as a duplicate invoice an original
33 electronic invoice for which said net sum amount is
34 greater than zero; said identifying including
35 execution of check verbs, each said check verb being
36 satisfied to identify said invoice as a duplicate
37 invoice; said check verbs including determining that
38 this vendor is a vendor for which duplicate invoice
39 checking is to be performed, determining that there is
40 a purchase order history of previous purchase orders
41 for said invoice, and determining for each item on
42 said invoice a sum of its purchase order history, with
43 said sum being greater than zero for at least one said
44 item;

45 automatically communicating a duplicate invoice rejection
46 transaction back to said vendor for an original electronic
47 invoice identified as a duplicate invoice without posting
48 said original electronic invoice to said accounts payable
49 data base;

50 posting said invoice to a workflow database and assuring
51 that the number and amount of invoices posted to said
52 workflow database equal the number and amount of translated
53 invoices accepted for preprocessing;

54 logging to an error queue invoices failing audit for

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55 subsequent manual processing;

56 logging to an exceptions and warnings log table as

57 exceptions invoices which are determined during

58 preprocessing to be duplicate invoices and as warnings

59 invoices which during preprocessing were recalculated or had

60 sales tax deducted;

61 introducing said original electronic invoices not identified

62 as duplicate invoices into said accounts payable data base.

1 17. [Currently amended] The method of claim 16, said

2 preprocessing including

3 first sorting said original electronic invoice against an

4 accounts payable production table for same vendor and same

5 vendor invoice number;

6 second sorting hits from said first sorting for same

7 purchase order billed;

8 third sorting hits from said second sorting for same items

9 billed on purchase order;

10 calculating a net sum amount of said same items; and

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11 rejecting back to said customer as a duplicate invoice said
12 original electronic invoice if it contains said item with a
13 net sum amount greater than zero.

1 18. [Currently amended] A computing system, comprising:

2

3 an accounts payable data base;

4 a translator for receiving an original electronic invoice
5 from a trading partner and selectively rejecting said
6 original invoice back to said trading partner or accepting
7 said original invoice for further processing;

8

9 a preprocessor for identifying duplicate invoices from among
10 electronic invoices accepted for further processing before
11 introducing said electronic invoices into said accounts
12 payable data base by:

13 sorting all inbound invoices in credit/debit sequence;

14 auditing only debit invoices one at a time for
15 duplicate invoices and committing to said accounts
16 payable data base only those debit invoices which are
17 not duplicate invoices;

18 identifying invoices having a same vendor invoice

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19 designation, same purchase order number, and same item
20 number;

21 calculating a net sum amount of items on invoices
22 identified as having said same vendor invoice
23 designation, said same purchase order number, and said
24 same item number;

25 identifying as a duplicate invoice an original
26 electronic invoice for which said net sum amount is
27 greater than zero; said identifying including
28 execution of check verbs, each said check verb being
29 satisfied to identify said invoice as a duplicate
30 invoice; said check verbs including determining that
31 this vendor is a vendor for which duplicate invoice
32 checking is to be performed, determining that there is
33 a purchase order history of previous purchase orders
34 for said invoice, and determining for each item on
35 said invoice a sum of its purchase order history, with
36 said sum being greater than zero for at least one said
37 item;

38 an invoice processor for selectively automatically
39 communicating a duplicate invoice rejection transaction back
40 to said vendor for said original electronic invoice
41 identified as a duplicate invoice without posting said

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42 original electronic invoice to said accounts payable data
43 base; or introducing said original electronic invoice not
44 identified as said duplicate invoice into said accounts
45 payable data base.

1 19. [Currently amended] A program storage device readable by a
2 machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable
3 by a machine to perform a method for operating a computing system
4 responsive to receipt of an electronic input invoice from a
5 vendor for selectively rejecting back to said vendor duplicate
6 invoices without logging said duplicate invoices to an accounts
7 payable database, said method comprising:

8 receiving an original electronic invoice from a vendor;

9 rejecting original electronic invoices received from vendors
10 not initialized as trading partners, and translating
11 original electronic invoices received from vendors
12 initialized as trading partners;

13 assuring that during said translating the count of
14 translated invoices rejected and accepted equals the number
15 of original electronic invoices translated, and feeding
16 accepted invoices for preprocessing;

17
18 preprocessing invoices accepted for preprocessing as

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19 received from a trading partner vendor, said preprocessing
20 selectively validating a transaction, calculating line item
21 accounts, deducting sales tax, and identifying original
22 electronic invoices which are duplicate invoices before
23 introduction into an accounts payable data base, said
24 identifying duplicate invoices including:

25 sorting all inbound invoices in credit/debit sequence;

26 auditing only debit invoices one at a time for
27 duplicate invoices and committing to said accounts
28 payable data base only those debit invoices which are
29 not duplicate invoices;

30 identifying invoices having a same vendor invoice
31 designation, same purchase order number, and same item
32 number;

33 calculating a net sum amount of items on invoices
34 identified as having said same vendor invoice
35 designation, said same purchase order number, and said
36 same item number;

37 identifying as a duplicate invoice an original
38 electronic invoice for which said net sum amount is
39 greater than zero; said identifying including

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40 execution of check verbs, each said check verb being
41 satisfied to identify said invoice as a duplicate
42 invoice; said check verbs including determining that
43 this vendor is a vendor for which duplicate invoice
44 checking is to be performed, determining that there is
45 a purchase order history of previous purchase orders
46 for said invoice, and determining for each item on
47 said invoice a sum of its purchase order history, with
48 said sum being greater than zero for at least one said
49 item;

50 automatically communicating a duplicate invoice rejection
51 transaction back to said vendor for an original electronic
52 invoice identified as a duplicate invoice without posting
53 said original electronic invoice to said accounts payable
54 data base;

55 posting said invoice to a workflow database and assuring
56 that the number and amount of invoices posted to said
57 workflow database equal the number and amount of translated
58 invoices accepted for preprocessing;

59 logging to an error queue invoices failing audit for
60 subsequent manual processing;

61 logging to an exceptions and warnings log table as

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62 exceptions invoices which are determined during
63 preprocessing to be duplicate invoices and as warnings
64 invoices which during preprocessing were recalculated or had
65 sales tax deducted;

66 introducing said original electronic invoices not identified
67 as duplicate invoices into said accounts payable data base.

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